

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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ADDENDUM TO "COMMENTS ON THE OPPONENTS OF FLUORIDATION"

Enclosed for your use is a copy of "Addendum to Comments on the Opponents of Fluoridation." The information was compiled by the American Dental Association and supplements "Comments on the Opponents of Fluoridation" published in JADA, November 1965.

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Enclosure

ADDENDUM TO "COMMENTS ON THE OPPONENTS OF FLUORIDATION"*

Prepared by the American Dental Association, April 1971.

DR. K. A. BAIRD

From a letter from Dr. C. Gordon Watson, executive director, American Dental Association to columnist Ralph de Toledano, January 19, 1970:

"Your column on fluoridation has been transmitted to the American Dental Association from many parts of the country. We are most concerned that you have been misinformed on fluoridation, apparently on the basis of a single article by Dr. K. A. Baird in what you term a medical journal. The article was, in fact, an editorial expression of opinion in the magazine, Canadian Doctor, which is not a component of the scientific literature...."

"The claims against fluoridation listed by Dr. Baird are not new, not valid and no justification for alarm. They have been evaluated and found to be without basis in scientific fact or not relevant to the consideration of water fluoridated at one part fluoride per million parts of water. Dr. Baird cites research studies which are faulty in design or which have been contradicted by many other research studies. He cites opinions which represent a tiny minority of dissident views in the scientific professions.

"He makes a tragic and completely false analogy between thalidomide and fluoridation. Before fluorides were first added to water 25 years ago this month in Grand Rapids, the safety of fluoride in water had been established by close and careful study of populations living on naturally fluoridated water supplies. Fluoride in water is not new in nature. Controlled fluoridation as a public health measure simply copies nature and improves on it. The difference is that sanitary engineers can control the amount of fluoride in the water at the optimum level for dental health. Many naturally fluoridated water supplies, on the other hand, have fluoride levels considerably more than 1 ppm and excessive enough to cause mottling of teeth. I have always found it strange that opponents of fluoridation, like Dr. Baird, show no concern for those whose water supplies contain excessive natural fluorides...."

DR. ALBERT W. BURGSTAHLER

From a letter from the U.S. Public Health Service, May, 1966:

"Dr. Albert W. Burgstahler has not, to our knowledge, ever engaged in any direct fluoridation research -- epidemiologic, clinical, or laboratory...."

"Dr. Burgstahler gives credence to such anti-fluoridation charges as those of Dr. Ionel Rapaport who claims to have proven that fluoridation increases the incidence of mongolism whereas, in fact,

*See "Comments...", JADA 71-1155-83, November 1965.

Dr. Rapaport's work has been shown to be epidemiologically and statistically inaccurate and invalid by a group of scientists at the National Institutes of Health who were asked to evaluate this work. Dr. Burgstahler's complete lack of criticality regarding anti-fluoridation claims, coupled with unwarranted attacks on experts who have performed a great deal of widely respected original work and who have solidly documented the most extensive analysis of the literature ever made, seems strange indeed for anyone claiming scientific objectivity...."

From a letter from W. Clarke Wescoe, Chancellor, University of Kansas, November 8, 1966:

"....I am surprised that anyone would believe that the University of Kansas has taken any position on the fluoridation matter. Indeed, I do not see how the University, as a general community, could take a position on the matter. It can be said that the University has never supported in any way the views of Professor A.W. Burgstahler, although it supports vigorously his right to express his own views.

"As I have said in previous letters, it seems to me as an individual and a physician that the organizations which have endorsed officially fluoridation -- and there are many of them -- are substantial and the weight of their endorsements should speak for itself."

From a letter from Hamilton B.G. Robinson, dean, University of Missouri at Kansas City, School of Dentistry, June 1, 1966:

"Dr. Albert W. Burgstahler is one of the typical antifuoridationists with a background in science. Dr. Burgstahler is Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Kansas at Lawrence, Kansas. He has at various times been opposed to teaching sex education in the schools of Lawrence, Kansas....

"You will probably note on the Kansas Academy of Science reprint that Burgstahler is the Associate Editor of Chemistry of the Transaction of the Kansas Academy of Science and has taken advantage of this position to broadcast his biased material.

"I have reviewed the 'Dental and Medical Aspects of Fluoridated Drinking Water' by Burgstahler and feel that it is made up of half-truths and innuendo which have no real basis in science...."

From a letter from Frederick J. Stare, professor of nutrition, Chairman, department of nutrition, Harvard University School of Public Health, April 20, 1966:

"....I do not know Dr. Burgstahler but I assume he is a reputable young chemist. Because he has a Ph.D. in chemistry is no reason to assume he is qualified to interpret the literature of fluoridation

anymore than I with a Ph.D. in biochemistry would be qualified to interpret the findings of organic and stereochemistry which appear to be his field of research interest....

"In all candor I must say that I was not impressed with the quality of his review article published in the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, (68, 223, 1965). It is about as uncritical a review as one could ever find. For example, he leans heavily on the papers of Waldbott whose work...is not accepted by his peers in allergy. He drags up the thoroughly discredited reports of Rapoport on Down's syndrome and implied that Dr. A.L. Russell designed his study, and therefore supports his conclusions. Nothing could be further from the truth for surely Dr. Burgstahler knows that Dr. Russell has several times said that Dr. Rapoport's conclusions are meaningless. The dean and others of the faculty of the School of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin where Rapoport was located for a while have publically discredited this work....

"It seemed particularly strange to me that he should end his review, the general purpose of which presumably is to discredit fluoridation, with a quote from H.V. Smith five years before the beginning of fluoridation, and who a few years after the start of fluoridation withdrew his objections to fluoridation...."

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON NUTRITION AND VITAL SUBSTANCES

From a memorandum from U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Dental Health, January 18, 1968:

"...The International Society for Research on Nutrition and Vital Substances was organized in Germany in 1954 '...to conduct research on nutrition and vital substances, to combat the use of chemical products and food additives which have been insufficiently tested, and generally to promote better standards of nutrition and living.' The Society has headquarters in Germany. The leadership of the Society and the membership of its Scientific Council are mostly from European countries. About 15 percent of the 400-member Council are from outside of Europe.

"Resolution 39 (issued by the Society in 1967) opposes fluoridation of community water supplies as a public health measure to prevent dental caries.

"...The Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Contamination distributed the news release concerning the ISRNVS and Resolution 39. This Committee membership was listed under a letterhead which contained the name, address and honorary President of the ISRNVS, and carried

the statement that the news release was sponsored on behalf of the Society. However, Dr. H. A. Schweigart, President of the Society, has stated since, in a letter to us, that the Committee is not related to the Society and had no part in preparing Resolution 39....

"In calling for more research, the Society either chooses to ignore or refuses to accept the mass of evidence in favor of fluoridation that has been presented. After many years of research and study, the weight of scientific evidence continues to attest to the safety and effectiveness of fluoridation as a public health measure...."

From a letter of December 5, 1967, from C. G. King, president, International Union of Nutritional Sciences:

"...Their opposition to fluoridation of water supplies, as illustrated in Resolution 39, is typical of their propaganda, even though fluoridation has been demonstrated to be safe and a very important contribution to public health by competent and unbiased scientists, particularly in the United States and in England. Furthermore, no scientifically qualified organization has opposed carefully supervised fluoridation such as approved by the U.S.P.H.S. since the practice was established in the United States and in England."

From a statement by Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel Peace Prize and Nobel Prize winner and Honorary President of the Society, November 29, 1967:

"...It is my opinion that the scientific aspects of this problem have been satisfactorily clarified, and that the International Convention on Vital Substances, Nutrition, and the Diseases of Civilization should change its negative attitude towards the legalized fluoridation of drinking water into a positive attitude.

"At about the time that this resolution was passed I was elected Honorary President of the International Society for Research on Nutrition and Vital Substances, in succession to Dr. Albert Schweitzer. I have now written the Society, expressing to the Society my belief that the scientific aspects of the problem of the fluoridation of drinking water have been sufficiently clarified, and asking the Scientific Council of the Society to withdraw its opposition to the legalized fluoridation of drinking water, and to prepare a new resolution supporting the fluoridation of drinking waters in which the concentration of fluoride ion is less than the average for natural waters."

From a letter from Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Nobel Prize winner and listed as a member of the International Society for Research in Nutrition and Vital Substances, December 4, 1967:

"...I am thankful to you that you called my attention to the fact that the Society for Research on Nutrition and Vital Substances is against fluoridation so I asked them to remove my name from the list of honorary members...."

From a letter from Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, March 5, 1970:

"I think fluoridation is one of the major advances in preventive medicine. I (would have been) spared a great deal of trouble and have had a smoother life had I had fluoridated water in my youth. Fluoride is a natural constituent of our surrounding and it is chiefly due to man's emancipation of nature that we do not get enough of it. Dental caries is one of the major annoyances of life which do not always stop at the annoyance level but can seriously threaten life and happiness."

MRS. PATRICIA LANIER

From a letter from Dr. John E. Zur, secretary, American Dental Association Council on Dental Health, April 24, 1967:

"...The letter from Mrs. Patricia Lanier, with the photo of her daughter, has been used with minor variations, in antifuoridation advertisements all over the country for several years. Mrs. Lanier's claim that her daughter Holly has fluorosed teeth apparently applies chiefly to the deciduous teeth. This, I understand, is significant because the occurrence of fluorosis in primary teeth is extremely rare and is found only in areas where the water has fluoride concentration higher than the one part per million used in controlled fluoridation.

"The appearance of Holly's teeth in the photo has prompted some dentists to suggest that her problem might be amelogenesis imperfecta. We have only the antifuoridations' assertion in the literature exploiting this child that her condition is fluorosis and that it is caused by brief exposure to the same drinking water which has benefited thousands of other children in the Washington, D.C. area.

"The flyer states that analysis of Holly's teeth found a concentration of 194.8 ppm fluoride. I understand that this concentration of fluoride in tooth tissue is well within the normal range and healthy teeth, even in low fluoride areas, might contain even higher concentrations of fluoride...."

DR. ROBERT J. H. MICK

From the ADA Newsletter, Volume 10, No. 11, Saturday, June 1, 1957:

"NEW JERSEY COURT DISMISSES \$200,000 LIBEL SUIT
FILED AGAINST THE A.D.A. BY ANTI-FLUORIDATIONIST

"A libel suit for \$200,000 damages from the American Dental Association which was filed last fall by Dr. Robert J. H. Mick, of Laurel Springs, N.J., was dismissed in Superior Court in Camden, N.J., last week by

Judge Edward V. Martino. The court rules that no libel had been committed and dismissed the suit at the conclusion of the plaintiff's case...."

From a letter from George V. Budrean, assistant director, American Dental Association Bureau of Public Information, September 12, 1963:

"Thank you for sending us a copy of Dr. Mick's recent '\$1,000 reward offer.' This is not the first time he has made such an offer as the enclosed material indicates.

"It may be interesting to note that his idea seems to strangely correspond to a \$1,000 reward by the Chehalis Fluoridation League. The League had offered the amount to anyone who could prove fluoridation harmful. This resulted in a law suit by anti-fluoridationist, F.B. Exner of Seattle, who attempted to collect the reward. Dr. Exner's claim was rejected by the Court. Presiding Judge John S. Langenbach wrote 'that the trial court disbelieved the plaintiff's testimony' and that 'the Court is forced to the conclusion...that the use of fluoridation in the proportion of one part per million does not produce an ill-effect upon a person.'...."

From a letter from Joanna A. Carey, assistant director, American Dental Association Bureau of Public Information, April 3, 1969:

"...Dr. Mick is well-known to us as a long-time opponent of fluoridation. He has repeatedly offered 'rewards' for 'proof' that fluorides are not harmful. Commenting recently on one of Dr. Mick's offers, our legal counsel said:

'Dr. Mick's offer of \$5,000 to a person who will submit a record of a successful long-term controlled fluoridation 'experiment' has an unusual condition attached to it. The person who submits the record of a successful long-term controlled fluoridation experiment (one part fluoride to one million parts of water) might also be asked to 'prove that poisonous fluorides are safe and will cause no future body harm.' In my opinion, the \$5,000 offered by Dr. Mick could be withheld by him until someone is able to 'prove that poisonous fluorides are safe.' Obviously, no one can prove that a pint of water containing 2,000 parts per million of fluorides will 'cause no body harm.'"

JOHN J. MILLER

From a letter from Mary Bernhardt, secretary, American Dental Association Council on Dental Health, August 6, 1968:

"...As to Dr. John J. Miller...He apparently graduated from the University of Illinois in 1909 in chemistry. He is not listed in

the current volumes of American Men of Science nor was he listed in the volumes published in 1955. Although he is listed as a member of the Chicago section of the American Chemical Society, there is very little information available from this listing. In the 1914 volumes of Chemical Abstracts he was listed as an Associate Editor. His name was not listed in the volumes of subsequent years, either as an editor or as a contributor to the chemical literature. His name was not included as a member of the American Society of Biological Chemists in lists going back as far as 1942. It appears that he has not been active in teaching or research in the field of chemistry for a number of years. None of this seems to add up to any ability to speak with authority on fluoridation...."

From an article by Dr. Walter Kraatz in the Akron Dental Journal, May 1966:

"...In September 1964, several (advertisements) were devoted to advertising in laudatory style one Mr. John J. Miller, a pharmaceutical manufacturer from Chicago who is vehemently against fluoridation. He was being sponsored to give a lecture. The advertising was to draw in the indoctrinated 'antis.' Akron's health commissioner was barred from attending at the door of the lecture hall.

"Miller was cited as Dr. John J. Miller, Ph.D. It happens that later I received from Chicago an autobiographical sheet where he listed this as follows, 'Ph.D. (honorary), State of Missouri.' Of course, that made things more unbelievable still. Inquiry, including a direct letter to Miller, received no reply...."

From a letter from Oliver Field, American Medical Association Department of Investigation, September 25, 1968:

"....Along the line of his claimed relationship with J.B. Roerig & Company (#5 in the Biographical Sketch) we do find that he was employed by the firm from 1948 until 1957. He apparently was Director of Biochemical Research of the firm for a period of three years from October 1, 1953, until January, 1956, when he became a consultant (under Pfizer). He left the firm in October, 1957.

"We also located his superior before Roerig was taken over by Pfizer in 1953. In the circumstances, while there is quite a bit of material from the curricula vitae which is true, there is also a good bit of it which will not bear scrutiny...."

DR. ROBERT C. OLNEY

From a letter from Robert W. Harkins, Ph.D., director, American Medical Association Section on Food Science, June 30, 1967:

"We have received a booklet 'Magnesium Defects and Fluorine' edited by Robert C. Olney, M.D., of Lincoln, Nebraska. This 56 page booklet

purports to demonstrate that fluorine is a significant health problem because of its ability to combine with magnesium-containing enzymes. In my opinion, this booklet does not prove anything, let alone demonstrate that fluoride is a significant health problem....

"It is suggested that fluoride can damage soft tissues and cause mental and physical defects in the newborn. The levels of fluoride required to cause kidney damage far exceed the levels used in the fluoridation of water. One would have to ingest water containing 200 ppm of fluoride to produce change in the kidney, the organ which is most susceptible to chronic fluorosis. We know of no literature which demonstrates that fluoridated water at any level will produce defects in the embryo. In point of fact, the placenta acts as a rather effective barrier to fluoride.

"Quite apart from Dr. Olney's interest in fluoridation is his active role as the national chairman of the 'Committee of the States.' We are enclosing a copy of his leaflet in which he suggests that 'Financial collapse and bloody civil war in the United States is imminent.' I won't clutter up your files with his booklet, 'Save the Republic,' which contains more of the same...."

From a letter from Joanna A. Carey, assistant director, American Dental Association Bureau of Public Information, June 8, 1967:

"Concerning the relation between magnesium and fluoride, Dr. J. Roy Doty, our assistant secretary for research and therapeutics, has commented: 'Waters with adequate fluoride levels were associated with low caries (decay) experience whether the magnesium levels were low or moderately high. Conversely, high caries experience was associated with low fluoride levels irrespective of low or relatively high magnesium levels.'...."

DR. ALBERT SCHATZ

From a speech by Dr. Sholom Pearlman, secretary, American Dental Association Council on Dental Research, at Pan American Health Organization course on fluoridation engineering techniques and economics, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 27, 1967:

"...He apparently is involved in the field of oral microbiology and he claims to be the co-originator of the proteolysis-chelation hypothesis of dental caries. It is perhaps in this latter context that he has come to question fluoridation's usefulness, for his hypothesis has not been accepted in principle by a majority of dental scientists because of inadequate supportive evidence.

"Briefly, the proteolysis-chelation hypothesis holds that decay is caused by oral bacteria which act upon protein in the food or in the tooth enamel and dentin itself; some products of this action also possess the ability to chelate the mineral portion of the tooth. The vast majority of dental scientists today are convinced by overwhelming scientific evidence that decay results from attack by acidic products of bacterial fermentation of carbohydrates upon susceptible tooth structure.

"I presume that Schatz's logic might argue that fluoride, which is now believed by many to make the apatite crystals of tooth minerals less soluble, is of no importance since -- according to his hypothesis -- it is the protein, not the mineral, that is first attacked....

"This hypothesis flies in the face of the countless fluoridation studies which have consistently demonstrated that fluoridation reduces the incidence of decay by about 65 per cent. If Schatz's ideas are correct, fluoride would not be effective in preventing caries. But the simple fact remains that fluoridation is effective; in fact, highly so...."